

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chairman JP Pomnichowski, on March 11, 2009  
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Mike Milburn, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)  
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)  
Rep. Anders Blewett (D)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)  
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)  
Rep. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)  
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)  
Rep. Mike Miller (R)  
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)  
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)  
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Shirley Chovanak, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 131, 3/6/2009; SB 143, 3/6/2009;  
SJ 7, 3/6/2009

Executive Action: None

00:00:01 Chairman Milburn asked Vice Chairman Pomnichowski to chair the committee.

**HEARING ON SB 131**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:24 Sen. Carol Williams (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 131, Require DNRC to designate wildland-urban interface.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:29 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT (nah54a01)**

00:09:10 Pat McKelvey, Fire Safe Montana

00:10:32 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:11:35 Richard VanAuken, Fire Chief, Teton County

**EXHIBIT (nah54a02)**

00:18:17 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors

**EXHIBIT (nah54a03)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:22:41 Rep. Dickenson  
00:23:26 Sen. Williams  
00:24:27 Rep. Dickenson  
00:24:41 Sen. Williams  
00:24:45 Rep. Reinhart  
00:25:03 Mr. Harrington  
00:26:16 Rep. Reinhart  
00:26:23 Mr. Harrington  
00:29:37 Rep. Reinhart  
00:30:01 Mr. Harrington  
00:30:28 Rep. Reinhart  
00:30:38 Mr. Harrington  
00:30:52 Rep. Hands  
00:31:17 Mr. Harrington  
00:32:08 Rep. Hands  
00:32:16 Mr. Harrington  
00:32:18 Rep. Hands  
00:32:54 Mr. Harrington

00:33:28 Rep. Hands  
00:33:53 Mr. Harrington  
00:36:50 Rep. Hoven  
00:38:10 Mr. VanAuken  
00:39:32 Rep. Hoven  
00:39:59 Mr. VanAuken  
00:40:41 Rep. Hoven  
00:40:49 Mr. VanAuken  
00:41:09 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski  
00:42:09 Sen. Williams  
00:42:15 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski  
00:42:48 Mr. Harrington  
00:45:51 Rep. Bennett  
00:46:34 Mr. Harrington  
00:48:08 Rep. Bennett  
00:48:27 Mr. Harrington  
00:49:06 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski  
00:49:24 Mr. Harrington

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:50:01 Sen. Williams  
00:52:05 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski

**HEARING ON SJ 7**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:52:37 Sen. John Brenden (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on  
SJ 7, Opposition to HR 2421.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:56:46 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
00:59:14 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association  
01:00:34 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana  
01:01:34 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana  
Cattlemen Association, and Montana Public Lands  
Council

**EXHIBIT (nah54a04)**

01:04:50 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agriculture  
Irrigators (AGAI)  
01:05:47 Jeff Tiberi, Executive Director, Montana Conservation  
Districts  
01:06:42 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Snowmobile Association

**EXHIBIT (nah54a05)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:07:35 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

01:10:14 Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited

**EXHIBIT (nah54a06)**

01:12:13 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council

**EXHIBIT (nah54a07)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:15:19 Rep. Dickenson

01:15:44 Mr. Denowh

01:16:13 Rep. Van Dyk

01:16:51 Sen. Brenden

01:20:15 Rep. Van Dyk

01:20:43 Sen. Brenden

01:20:59 Rep. Van Dyk

01:21:11 Sen. Brenden

01:21:14 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski

01:21:29 Rep. Bennett

01:22:00 Mr. Augenes

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:22:19 Sen. Brenden

01:25:57 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski

01:25:59 Rep. Van Dyk

01:26:21 Vice Chairman Pomnichowski

01:26:38 Break

01:38:46 Resume

**HEARING ON SB 143**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:38:57 Sen. Rick Laible (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on  
SB 143, Revise condominium fire protection assessments.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:42:16 Ted Meade, Chief, Fire and Aviation Management, DNRC

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:47:06 Rep. Hoven

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:47:43 Sen. Laible

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:48:05 Adjournment: 4:50 P.M.

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Shirley Chovanak, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([nah54aad.pdf](#))**